



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Brad Sherwood
707.521.6204 – Office

Source of Dam Leak Found, Quick Repair Scheduled

Loose Flange Caused By High Stream Flows During Winter Storms

Santa Rosa, CA – The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) has found the source of the leak in its inflatable rubber dam on the Russian River; a loose flange. Agency staff found that the rubber bladder of the dam had stretched and slipped off the inlet pipe flanges. No tears or other damage to the rubber was found. The cause of the damage is believed to have been caused during one of the storms earlier this year.

Flange details: The rubber bladder of the dam is filled through an inlet pipe attached to a penetration on the underside of the bladder. The rubber is compressed between two flanges that seal the bladder around the inlet pipe.

Repair Work: Repairs will involve removing the upper flange, inserting the rubber over the lower flange and reinstalling the compression flange. As mitigation against a reoccurrence of the problem, the Agency will also be installing additional anchor plates adjacent to the inlet pipe. This will prevent the rubber from slipping off the inlet flanges. The Agency is working around the clock to re-inflate the dam by the end of July.

Agency staff and Bridgestone representatives are monitoring the operation of the inflatable dam around the clock. The Agency contracted with K.G. Walters Construction, a Santa Rosa based engineering contractor, to perform preparation work for the repair of the dam. A crane is being utilized to lift the dam in order for repair work to be completed.

Water diversion from the river to the Mirabel ponds is being maintained and water demand is being met. The inflatable dam has been deflated and coffer dams have been placed in the Russian River in order to divert water around the work area.

Existing emergency wet wells (approximately 100 feet down stream of the dam) have been activated as an alternate means to maintain the diversion of water to the Mirabel ponds. As a back up, the Agency has additional pumps on site to divert water from areas behind the dam to the ponds.

The Agency continues to encourage its water retail providers to continue implementation of water conservation measures and be prepared to operate local water supply sources as it repairs damage to the inflatable dam.

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Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at www.sonomacountywater.org.